



Rainier School District
Nutrition Services Program
503-556-4215 ext. 211

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 22, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs, equipment and infrastructure for food producers and technical assistance for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition.

Over the past 10 plus years, our district has been able to provide students with products that are grown and produced in Oregon on a regular basis using these funds. Our students have enjoyed fresh strawberries from our local farm, apples, berries, granola, yakisoba noodles, tortilla shells, and variety of new local sauces just to name a few items. Even with utilizing competitive grants received, I have been out of Farm to CNP dollars this entire school year.

As a child nutrition professional, I support this grant program because it gives us the freedom to purchase items locally that my otherwise be out of our budget. It allows us to provide local foods to our students and provide education for these students. It also helps to build strong food systems.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities. Thank you for your time.

Debby Webster
Rainier School District
Rainier, OR